



DR. WM. SEWARD WEBB.

Dr. Wm. Seward Webb of Shelburne, Vermont, was born in the City of New York on the 31st day of January, 1851. The name of Webb traces strongly through our country's history to the arrival of Richard Webb, four years after the mooring of the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock. Richard Webb settled at Cambridge, Mass. in 1620, subsequently moving to Connecticut, where he took an active part in the administration of colonial affairs. General Samuel Blachley Webb, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a distinguished revolutionary patriot. He was with Warren at Bunker Hill, gallantly leading his regiment of minute men, and was among the first called upon to shed blood in the cause of freedom and liberty. Later, he raised and equipped at his own expense, the 3rd. Connecticut Regiment and participated in the battle of Long Island, commanding the light infantry with the Brevet rank of Major General. General Webb was on the staff of General Israel Putnam, also Aide-de-Camp on the staff of General Washington, and wrote the order for the promulgation of the Declaration of Independence in New York City. He participated in the battles of Long Branch, Trenton, and White Plains, was twice wounded and finally captured by the British, and held a prisoner over two years, an offer of exchange from the American Government being refused, owing to their high regard for his valor, and fear of his staunch advocacy of the American cause. In recognition of continued valuable services, General Webb was appointed Master of Ceremonies at the Inauguration of Washington and had the honor of escorting the President elect to the place of inauguration, and then of holding the Bible while Washington kissed its sacred pages when he took the oath of office as first President of the American Republic. General James Watson Webb, the father of Dr. W. Seward Webb, entered the army as Lieutenant at the age of seventeen, but there being no urgent requirement for services he resigned, and became editor and proprietor of the New York Morning Courier, and later merged this paper with the New York Inquirer under the title of Courier Inquirer—at that time the most powerful journal of the metropolis. General Webb was a man of deep convictions, keen intellect, and strong will, and attained distinction as a diplomat. He was nominated Minister to

Austria by President Taylor in 1883, and later declined the mission to Constantinople. In 1881 he was appointed Minister to Brazil, rendering important services to the Government during this critical period. He was selected by Secretary Seward as a special envoy, to impress upon the ambitious Bonaparte the principles of the Monroe Doctrine, and the aversion of a war with France at that time is largely credited to his skillful diplomacy. Through his mother, Laura Virginia, the daughter of Jacob L. Cram, Dr. Webb's

two years at Columbia, following this with a course of Medical studies abroad. Returning, he took the regular course at the College for Physicians and Surgeons in New York, from which he graduated in 1873. He then entered St. Luke's Hospital, for two years practice, after which he established a good practice of his own. He however, soon abandoned this for an active business life. In 1881 he married Eliza Osgood, daughter of Wm. H. Vanderbilt, and soon after, being attracted by the beauties of Vermont, he became

ness of the Company was increased to a requirement of over nine hundred cars in 1899 when it was merged in the Pullman Company; Dr. Webb becoming a Director in the latter company. As indicating Dr. Webb's relation and bearing toward his employees during those years, no better fact could be cited than that of the presentation to him of a very large and valuable loving cup by the four thousand employees of the Company on his retirement from its presidency. This action of the army of workers at a time when Dr. Webb had laid down his authority over them, is a high tribute to his character and ability, his courtesy and kindly interests in those under his authority. The building of a Railroad through the Adirondack wilderness, and the development of that region, with its new cities and hotels, and the hundreds of thousands of visitors annually to that section, is a lasting tribute to the tireless energy and determination to succeed which Dr. Webb evinces in all his undertakings. While Dr. Webb has been interested during these years in large business enterprises without the State, he has closely identified himself in the best interests of Vermont and is today engaged in some of its largest business enterprises. In 1896 he was elected Representative from the Town of Shelburne, serving on the Military and Railroad Committees. He was re-elected in 1898, and served on the same committees. He has done much to force the better recognition of the State throughout the Union, and was instrumental in providing means for Representation at Yorktown Centennial, Washington Inaugural Centennial at New York, McKinley Inauguration, and the Grand Memorial, the latter two representations being solely due to his efforts. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Military Post at Fort Ethan Allen, and Mrs. Webb and himself are the happy possessors of a beautiful loving cup presented them by the members of the First Vermont in recognition of the thoughtful interest in their welfare at Camp Thomas, Chalkamunga. Dr. Webb is without a pattern of the public spirited citizen, seeking for the good of his state, his country, and the welfare of the people. The home life of Dr. Webb is a model of domesticity. His hours of leisure are spent with his family at Shelburne Farms, or in fishing and hunting, in which sports he delights. But while he and Mrs. Webb are devoted to their Shelburne home, where they entertain large numbers of their friends, they are not unmindful of the duties that are imposed upon them by their wealth. Their benefactions are numberless and generous, but are bestowed modestly and without ostentation.

A fond lover of horses, every day at home brings its visits to the Breeding establishment, when the horses are fondled and admired, the younger receiving the major attention. Dr. Webb follows

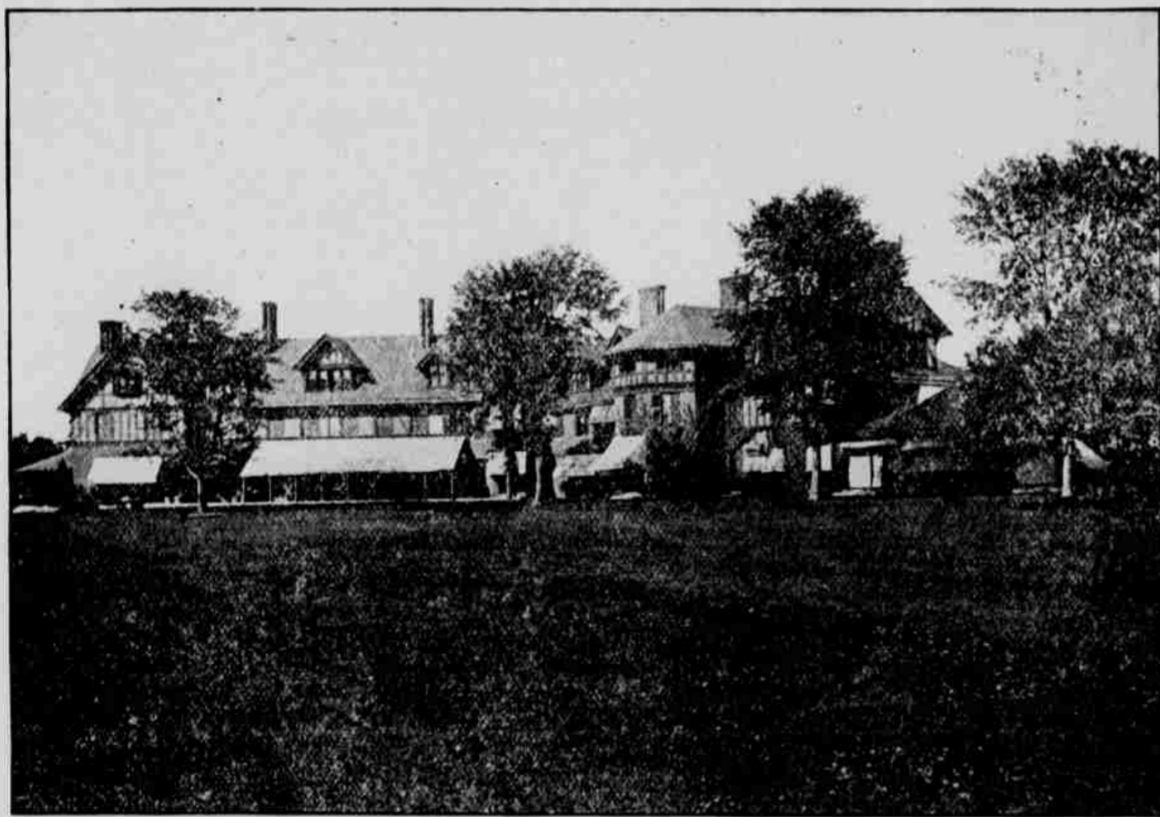


SOUTH ENTRANCE TO SHELBURNE FARMS.

William Seward Webb. Easily accessible to all sections, its location is an ideal one, extending from a point about six miles directly south of Burlington, along the eastern shore of the great Lake Champlain. Made up of a number of small holdings acquired by purchase from several Vermont farmers it has been transformed into a private park and, besides a spacious country residence, contains within its borders all the natural advantages necessary to the full enjoyment of outdoor life by the family and friends of a wealthy country gentleman. There is a diversity of lake and mountain scenery seldom met with on private property. Lake Champlain stretches for 100 miles in either direction affording ample facilities for yachting

the immediate vicinity were erected under his personal direction and, like all else connected with the enterprise, are in perfect taste. The drive from the depot over the well kept roads skirting the eastern boundary of the estate is at all times delightful and the immense farm buildings, when they come within range, give one the idea that there lies a thriving village. It is with these buildings and their purposes rather than the grandeur of the surroundings that this brief descriptive article is intended to deal. There is a reason for the establishment of Shelburne Farms, of which these buildings are a part. The desire to exert an influence for the benefit of the horse breeding industry of the state and to bring back to Vermont the fame that

about 15 hands one inch, or 15 hands 2 inches, good bone and substance, round-ribbed and short-backed and a bit of action, and for which they are willing to pay \$300 or \$400 cash. Dr. Webb's hope, as expressed in the foregoing, is that our farmers will try and breed a utility horse and leave the race-horse to those who can better afford to take the risks and assume the vexatious attending them. His desire is to bring back to the state of Vermont the old type of draught horse, with this difference, that with the use of the hackney he will be a little finer. The residence and the farm buildings at Shelburne are splendid structures, as may well be imagined by a glance at the accompanying illustrations and there are others now in course



SOUTH VIEW OF DR. WEBB'S RESIDENCE.

ancestry traces to John Knott, an active participant in the French and Indian wars, bearing the rank of Sergeant in the war of King Philip in 1675. Dr. Webb when in his teens accompanied his father on his mission to Brazil. Upon his return he spent five years at Churchill's Military Academy at Sing Sing, and subsequently

a resident of this state. In 1883 he was elected President of the Wagner Palace Car Company and his energetic and forceful management soon resulted in modernized methods and equipments, and a consequent extension of the service into new territory. With a rolling stock of three hundred cars at the outset, the bus-

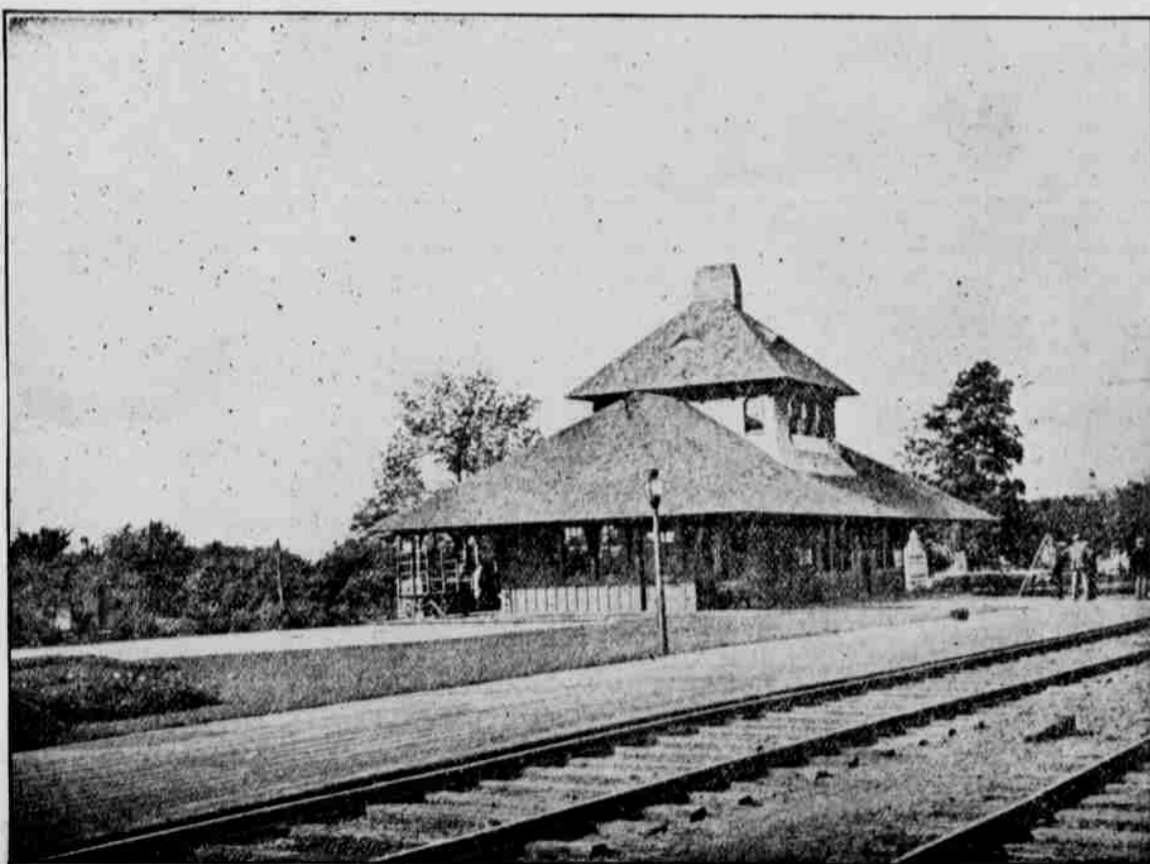
ness of the Company was increased to a requirement of over nine hundred cars in 1899 when it was merged in the Pullman Company; Dr. Webb becoming a Director in the latter company. As indicating Dr. Webb's relation and bearing toward his employees during those years, no better fact could be cited than that of the presentation to him of a very large and valuable loving cup by the four thousand employees of the Company on his retirement from its presidency. This action of the army of workers at a time when Dr. Webb had laid down his authority over them, is a high tribute to his character and ability, his courtesy and kindly interests in those under his authority. The building of a Railroad through the Adirondack wilderness, and the development of that region, with its new cities and hotels, and the hundreds of thousands of visitors annually to that section, is a lasting tribute to the tireless energy and determination to succeed which Dr. Webb evinces in all his undertakings. While Dr. Webb has been interested during these years in large business enterprises without the State, he has closely identified himself in the best interests of Vermont and is today engaged in some of its largest business enterprises. In 1896 he was elected Representative from the Town of Shelburne, serving on the Military and Railroad Committees. He was re-elected in 1898, and served on the same committees. He has done much to force the better recognition of the State throughout the Union, and was instrumental in providing means for Representation at Yorktown Centennial, Washington Inaugural Centennial at New York, McKinley Inauguration, and the Grand Memorial, the latter two representations being solely due to his efforts. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Military Post at Fort Ethan Allen, and Mrs. Webb and himself are the happy possessors of a beautiful loving cup presented them by the members of the First Vermont in recognition of the thoughtful interest in their welfare at Camp Thomas, Chalkamunga. Dr. Webb is without a pattern of the public spirited citizen, seeking for the good of his state, his country, and the welfare of the people. The home life of Dr. Webb is a model of domesticity. His hours of leisure are spent with his family at Shelburne Farms, or in fishing and hunting, in which sports he delights. But while he and Mrs. Webb are devoted to their Shelburne home, where they entertain large numbers of their friends, they are not unmindful of the duties that are imposed upon them by their wealth. Their benefactions are numberless and generous, but are bestowed modestly and without ostentation.

and boating, while the views and drives are numerous and the walks pretty and gloriously shaded. The Adirondacks, Mount Marcy, McIntyre and Seward, Camel's Hump and Mount Mansfield can all be plainly seen from Lone Tree Hill, the highest point on the estate. This most entrancing picture is not, however, viewed only by the distinguished owner and his chosen and intimate friends, for never for a day (Sunday excepted) since the estate came under the control of Dr. Webb have the great gates been closed to the public. Indeed Dr. Webb was once heard to remark: "Do you suppose I have spent all this time and money on Shelburne Farms simply to look at the beautiful picture myself. Let the public enjoy it too." On alighting from the train at Shelburne Farms there is afforded the visitor to the farms the first indication of the owner's handiwork, for the depot building and the cottages in

was formerly her's in this respect, was born within Dr. Webb years ago and "Shelburne Farms" is tangible, living proof of its fulfillment. There the owner's ideas and theories as regards horse breeding—have been and are being put to practical test. It is not the purpose of the writer to introduce any controversial matter into a review of Shelburne Farms. Dr. Webb's arguments and contentions are well and fully explained in a book published by him in 1893 and showing a knowledge of his subject that have commanded the attention and respect, if not the support of all students of the horse. His aim has been to induce farmers to abandon attempts to breed race horses which many have made simply to "find themselves with a lot of medium rate, undeveloped trotters on their hands, nearly all a little bit off and unfit for sale when a buyer comes from New York or Boston, looking for something

of erection. They include the private stable where are kept the harness and saddle horses required by the family and guests while at the Farms. Everything there is plain, solid, practical and denoting a thorough appreciation of the needs of man's best friend. The boxes and stalls are all roomy and well ventilated, while the harness room and coach house are pictures of neatness. Within a half mile of the house is the sheep and poultry farm where is kept a fine flock of choice and carefully selected South-downs and Hampshire-downs that would bring prizes for excellence at any county fair. The dairy building and cattle barns are located on the east side of the estate and there is found a large herd of the purest Jerseys of the famed Roster-Pogis blood. The farm barn is an immense structure built on three sides of a square, the fourth side consisting

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DEPOT AT SHELBURNE.



NEW HORSE STABLE.

SHELBURNE FARMS. One of the beauty spots of Western Vermont is the 4000 acre estate of Dr.